

RURAL DISTRICT OF
MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1950

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year 1950, on the public health of the District. My predecessor, Dr. D. L. Johnson, was Medical Officer of Health throughout the year. He took up an appointment with the Wiltshire County Council shortly after the end of the year.

The population of the District as estimated by the Registrar General was 10,050 in 1950 ; and the excess of births (171) over deaths (125) was 46, which gives a rate for natural increase of 4.6 per 1,000 population.

There were 171 (85 male and 86 female) births which give a rate, per 1,000 population, of 17.0 (18.5 per 1,000 corrected for purposes of comparison). The birth rate for the administrative county during 1950 was 15.7 and that for England and Wales for the same period, 15.8 respectively, per 1,000 population.

The death rate, based on 125 (64 males and 61 females) deaths gave a rate for 1950, for the District, of 12.4 (corrected for comparability, 10.9) per 1,000. The England and Wales death rate was 11.6, and that for the administrative county, 10.6 per 1,000 population for the same period. The death rate for infants under one year (infant mortality rate) was 17.5 per 1,000 live births during 1950; corresponding figures for the administrative county were 22.8, and for England and Wales 29.8 per 1,000 live births. There were actually only three such deaths—under one year of age—one male and two females. There were no infant deaths under 4 weeks of age.

Among the death rates for special causes, tuberculosis with 2 deaths gave a rate of 0.18 per 1,000 population; whereas pneumonia with 8 deaths gave a rate of 0.7 per 1,000 population, and cancer with 21 deaths gives a still higher rate of 1.8 per 1,000 population.

The proportional mortality rates for the principal causes of death were: heart and circulatory diseases, other than coronary disease 26.4 per cent.; cancer and coronary disease, each 16.8 per cent.; vascular lesions of the nervous system 12.8 per cent.; pneumonia and bronchitis 11.2 per cent., and tuberculosis 1.6 per cent.

Notifications of infective diseases numbered 134, which include 70 notified measles, 19 cases of whooping cough and 17 cases of pneumonia. There were also 14 cases of dysentery and 6 (corrected 5) notifications of poliomyelitis (4 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic).

The *incidence rate* per 1,000 population for the principal *notifiable* diseases in the District during 1950 were as follows: measles 7.0 (England and Wales 8.39), whooping cough 1.89 (England and Wales 3.6), pneumonia 1.69 (England and Wales 0.7) and poliomyelitis (paralytic) 0.40 as compared with 0.13 for paralytic poliomyelitis in England and Wales. The incidence rate for dysentery notified in the Rural District during 1950 was 1.39 per 1,000 population.

The position in regard to diphtheria immunization at 31.12.50 was: about 48 per cent. of children under 5 years of age completed primary immunization, and from ages 0—15 years, 85.7 per cent. were protected against diphtheria.

Other relevant data are to be found in the body of this report which is followed by the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1951.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	D. L. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	K. F. HUDSON, M.S.I.A., A.R., SAN.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	94,511
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	25
Population mid-1950, as estimated by the Registrar General	..	..	..	Total	10,050
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	3,146
Number of new houses erected in 1950 :—					
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	10
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	12
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£46,871
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£178

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	85	86	171
Legitimate	79	83	162
Illegitimate	6	3	9
Still Births	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate			17.0
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.8
Number of Deaths from all causes	64	61	125
Crude Death Rate			12.4
Crude Death Rate for England and Wales			11.6
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	1	2	3
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Infantile Death rate per 1,000 live births			17.5
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales			29.8

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1950 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

BIRTH RATE ; INFANT DEATH RATE ; TOTAL DEATH RATE, etc.—1950

	<i>Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	18.5	15.73	15.8
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	10.9	10.57	11.6
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births)	17.5	22.81	29.8
Death Rates—Special Causes (per 1,000 pop.) :—			
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.18	0.25	0.36
„ (other forms)	0.00	0.02	—
Cancer	1.80	1.57	—
Pneumonia	0.70	0.36	0.46

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious disease for the year was 134, as compared with 308 in 1949. Measles accounted for 70 of them. There were 19 cases of whooping cough, and 17 of pneumonia. Six cases of poliomyelitis were originally notified, but these after correction were reduced to 5 (4 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic). There were no deaths from this cause.

Fourteen cases (8 in children and 6 in adults) of dysentery occurred during 1950 at Ramsbury. The presence of a carrier of (sonne) organisms was noted during this outbreak, which occurred in November and lasted about three weeks. There were no deaths from this cause.

A table of monthly notifications of infectious diseases is given below ; corrected figures give measles as 69 ; pneumonia as 16 and poliomyelitis as 5 (4 paralytic).

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1950

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	.. —	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Whooping Cough ..	.. —	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	5	4	19
Measles ..	.. —	—	1	6	—	—	2	1	8	41	9	2	70
Pneumonia ..	.. 1	8	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	17
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	.. —	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ..	.. —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	6
Dysentery ..	.. —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	14
Erysipelas ..	.. 2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Total	3	11	7	7	—	—	4	3	9	51	24	15	134

TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen new cases were added to the Register, 13 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. There were 2 deaths from tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

The number of children protected at the end of 1950 was 2,000 a percentage of 85.7. Immunization is carried out at both the Marlborough and Avebury child welfare clinics.

VACCINATION

During 1950 only 53 infants under one year of age were vaccinated, or something less than one-third of the children born (171) during the year; and those vaccinated over one year are negligible. This unsatisfactory situation cannot fail in the future, to create a fertile soil for the smallpox virus which can be so readily introduced into any area these days with increased and speedy travel. Parents would be well advised to consider this matter of protecting their children against smallpox, and no opportunity should be lost of impressing this upon them by propaganda, on all possible occasions.

HOUSING

The housing position continued to be as urgent as in recent years; and during 1950, in common with other localities, sub-standard and other unsatisfactory housing continue in use for want of better accommodation.

Requests frequently reach the Public Health department of the Council for assistance with housing; priority on the grounds of chronic diseases, particularly tuberculosis, and to relieve overcrowding should be absolute.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply sources at Baydon, Aldbourne and Great and Little Bedwyn are adequate in quantity and quality. All three supplies are chlorinated. Results of periodic bacteriological examinations throughout the year have been generally good.

Water supply systems are being laid at Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George; and the scheme at Avebury has also commenced.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A sewerage system is being laid at Ramsbury; and a similar scheme is under consideration for Aldbourne.

FOOD SUPERVISION

This Authority has adopted the model by-laws for the control of infection in food.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1950
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2	" other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11	" " , lung, bronchus ..	2	1	3
12	" " , breast	—	2	2
13	" " , uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	2	12
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	6	10	16
18	Coronary disease, angina	13	8	21
19	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20	Other heart disease	10	14	24
21	Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
22	Influenza	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	4	4	8
24	Bronchitis	5	1	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32	Other defined and illdefined diseases ..	5	9	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	—	—	—
35	Suicide	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total all Causes		64	61	125

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the work carried out by my department during 1950.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Senior Officials for their ready help and advice over the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

The following is a table of new houses erected during the year :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Private Houses</i>
Aldbourne	—	1
Chilton Foliat	8	—
Grafton	—	2
Mildenhall	—	1
Ogbourne St. George	—	1
Preshute	—	1
Winterbourne Bassett	4	4
TOTAL	12	10

In addition 2 dwellings were converted into 4 dwellings, thus providing an extra two units of accommodation. Further, a barn, in good condition and no longer required for farming purposes, was converted into a bungalow.

The total number of houses erected during 1950 was on the low side but a start was made on sites for Council Houses at Aldbourne, Baydon, Ramsbury and West Overton.

A Clearance Area consisting of 3 cottages, was demolished after the Council has re-housed the tenants. No Demolition Orders were made during the year but 5 cottages on which Orders were operative were demolished.

During 1950 15 houses were inspected for the purpose of the Housing Survey, making a total of 305 since it was started. As stated in other Annual Reports, the completion of the Survey is not possible unless additional Staff is provided. A complete survey would prove of great value in assessing the housing needs of the various parishes, and of the district as a whole.

WATER SUPPLIES

There are at present three piped public water supplies in the district, as follows :—

- (a) Baydon (Water supplied by Hungerford Rural District Council).
- (b) Aldbourne, Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat.
- (c) Great Bedwyn and Little Bedwyn.

The following is a table showing the properties and population supplied by Public Water Supplies :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Direct to Houses</i>		<i>By means of Standpipes</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Baydon	70	210	—	—
Little Bedwyn	44	132	15	45
Great Bedwyn	210	630	—	—
Aldbourne	293	879	—	—
Chilton Foliat	54	162	—	—
Ramsbury	302	906	—	—

These supplies are adequate in quantity and quality. The water is chlorinated at Ramsbury Pumping Station, Bedwyn Pumping Station and at the Works supplying the water to the tower at Baydon. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken at various points on the mains at the Pumping Stations during the year, and the results are as shown below :—

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No.Samples Taken</i>	<i>No.Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No.Samples slightly unsatisfactory</i>	<i>No.Samples Not satisfactory</i>
Baydon	9	6	3	—
Great Bedwyn	11	10	1	—
Ramsbury and Aldbourne	12	10	2	—
TOTAL	32	26	6	—

Last year a proportion of the water samples taken from the Great Bedwyn supply were not up to standard but this appears to have cleared up and, as will be seen from the above table, only one sample out of eleven proved slightly unsatisfactory. Six samples of water were taken from the supplies to Council Houses other than those on the public main, and all proved highly satisfactory.

As the water supply in this area is practically all from chalk there is no risk of any plumbo-solvent action.

The water supplies to other parishes in the district are private piped supplies to estates and farms and adjoining cottages; wells to individual properties; or wells shared by a number of houses. In a number of cases farmers supply water to parts of the villages adjoining. In several parishes, especially during the summer months, there is a tendency for some of the wells to dry up entirely and others to be very low.

Substantial progress has been made on the scheme for supplying water to the parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George, the majority of the mains being laid. It is proposed to connect up properties in the early part of next year. Avebury Scheme also commenced work and fair progress has been made in the laying of mains.

Bacteriological samples were taken from various private supplies during the course of the year and where necessary advice was given as to how the quality of the supply could be improved, and with the extension of the piped supplies there is no doubt that the wells will be disused.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work has continued on the sewerage scheme at Ramsbury, but progress was not as rapid as desired. This was due mostly to the fact that sewers had to be laid in Newtown at depths up to 20 feet and the river level was only about 2 to 3 feet below the road surface. It was necessary to have a considerable number of water pumps, some of a large capacity, working continuously.

The Council continued to press the case for a sewerage scheme at Aldbourne and further consideration was given to this matter by the Ministry of Health.

The provision of drainage schemes to individual cottages and houses continues. This type of work is not confined to the larger houses but includes farm cottages, and is of great importance in improving the amenities of existing properties.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour consisting of a 10 cubic yard freighter and three men. Disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit, which is ideal for the purpose.

Two men are continuously engaged in the collection of refuse and the other man works at the Tip keeping it tidy and level.

There is a fortnightly collection to the ten most populated parishes and the rest receive collections every four weeks. Several requests have been received from Parish Councillors for an increase in the frequency of collections but with the present Staff no increase is possible.

The provision of a suitably constructed dustbin with a tight fitting lid and handles, to all properties would materially assist in the collec-

tion of house refuse. At the moment there are numerous types of containers in use and it is no uncommon thing to find anything up to six buckets or similar articles to empty at one cottage.

A dustbin would not only assist collection, but would be a great help against the fly problem, especially in the summer.

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of salvage continues and the quantity obtained during 1950 showed a considerable increase in respect of waste paper. Although the value had decreased in the early part of the year it was still considered that the separation of salvage from refuse was desirable and constituted some return for the service. By the autumn, however, the price received for waste paper started to rise slowly.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the salvage sold for the years 1949 and 1950.

	1949						1950					
	<i>Weight</i>			<i>Value</i>			<i>Weight</i>			<i>Value</i>		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Paper	40	19	0	215	18	5	47	0	0	190	6	10
Rags	1	17	3	39	12	9	1	10	2	22	16	6
Scrap Iron	6	13	1	14	4	6	6	0	0	13	8	6
TOTALS :				269	15	8				226	11	10

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Control methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are closely followed by the Rodent Operator, shared with the Borough of Marlborough and Pewsey Rural District Council, and while in this district works under my supervision.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into operation on the 31st March, 1950, altered the responsibilities of the various authorities. This Council is now not only responsible for dealing with business premises and private property, but is also responsible for dealing with farm properties and lands, which were previously under the control of the Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

It will be seen that Local Authorities' scope has been widened considerably and necessitates the inspection of farms and farm buildings as well as the normal business premises and private properties, etc., dealt with in the past.

There are no major infestations in this district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Periodical inspections were made to various factories in the district, attention being paid to ventilation of the premises, and adequate sanitary accommodation being provided.

There are no large factories in the area. The majority consists of small business premises such as bakehouses, garages, etc.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLIES

There are ten individual registrations under the various milk regulations and inspections are made to these premises from time to time.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :—

- 5 Licences for retailing Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 3 Licences for retailing Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Licence for retailing Accredited Milk.

BAKEHOUSES

In this Council's area there are 16 bakehouses, situated in the following parishes :—

Aldbourne	5
Avebury	1
Broad Hinton	1
Chilton Foliat	1
Grafton	1
Great Bedwyn	1
Ham	1
Ogbourne St. Andrew	1
Ramsbury	2
Shalbourne	1
West Overton	1

Regular visits are made to these Bakehouses and where necessary informal notices are served on the occupiers calling for them to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1936.

Number of inspections of Bakehouses—33.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

There are 25 premises which retail ice-cream in this district. All this ice-cream is manufactured outside the area and sold from refrigerators, chiefly in a pre-packed state.

The number of retailers registered tends to rise.

OTHER FOODS

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Beef	63	Abcess
Beef	7	Maggots
Beef	92	Bone Taint
Beef	49	Bone Taint
Cheese	6	Mouldy
Luncheon Meat	20	Blown
Tinned Foods—Various	20	Blown and Pierced

No Slaughterhouses have been operating in this district since 1939 and slaughtering is now centralised in Government controlled Slaughterhouses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1950

Nuisances, including complaints	..	..	..	..	203
Housing Inspections .. ..	..	..	..	..	70
Milk and Dairies Premises .. ..	..	..	..	..	19
Food Premises .. ..	..	..	..	..	76
Bakehouse Inspections .. ..	..	..	..	..	33
Butchers Shop Inspections .. ..	..	..	..	..	20
Refuse Collection and Salvage .. ..	..	..	..	..	95
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. ..	..	..	..	..	17
Inspection of New Buildings .. ..	..	..	..	..	255
Inspection of New Drainage .. ..	..	..	..	..	219
Infectious Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	38
Factory Inspections .. ..	..	..	..	..	11
Water Analysis and Sampling .. ..	..	..	..	..	51
Petroleum Inspections .. ..	..	..	..	..	12
Council House Enquiries .. ..	..	..	..	..	52
Ramsbury Drainage .. ..	..	..	..	..	207
Town Planning .. ..	..	..	..	..	48
Unclassified .. ..	..	..	..	..	74
TOTAL					1,500

